

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled BINDING DEVICE the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☒ was filed on September 26, 2003 as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number PCT/JP03/12305 and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)		Priority Date	Priority Claimed	
Patent Application <u>2002-283945</u> (Number)	<u>Japan</u> (Country) (PCT)	<u>27/09/2002</u> (Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Prior Foreign Application(s)		Priority Date	Priority Claimed	
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country) (PCT)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date)
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_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date)
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I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to

THIS CASE IS OPEN

patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

(Application Number) (Filing Date) (Status – patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Number) (Filing Date) (Status – patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Joseph R. Keating, Reg. No. 37,368

Address all correspondence to: Joseph R. Keating, Esq.
Keating & Bennett LLP
10400 Eaton Place, Suite 312
Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 385-5200

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first inventor (given name, family name) Kanji TANAKA

Inventor's signature Kanji Tanaka Date December 8, 2004

Residence Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu, Japan Citizenship Japan

Post Office Address c/o LIHIT LAB., INC. of 1-22, Noninbashi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu, JAPAN

Full name of second inventor (given name, family name) Hiroshi ARAI

Inventor's signature Hiroshi Arai Date December 8, 2004

Residence Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu, Japan Citizenship Japan

Post Office Address c/o LIHIT LAB., INC. of 1-22, Noninbashi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu, JAPAN

Full name of third inventor (given name, family name) Hiroshi NAKANO

Inventor's signature Hiroshi Nakano Date December 8, 2004

Residence Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu, Japan Citizenship Japan

Post Office Address c/o LIHIT LAB., INC. of 1-22, Noninbashi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu, JAPAN

VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 C.F.R. 1.9(f) & 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

PATENT
DOCKET NO:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Kanji TANAKA, Hiroshi ARAI, Hiroshi NAKANO

Serial No.: Unknown

Filed:

Title:

I hereby state that I am

- ☒ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☐ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN LIHIT LAB., INC.

ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN 1-22, Noninbashi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu, JAPAN

I hereby state that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR Part 121 for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Questions related to size standards for a small business concern may be directed to: Small Business Administration, Size Standards Staff, 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416.

I hereby state that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention described in:

- ☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
☐ the application identified above.
☐ PCT International Application No. _____, filed on _____

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern, or organization having rights in the invention must file separate statements as to their status as small entities, and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ No such person, concern or organization exists.
☐ Each such person, concern or organization is listed below:

Full Name:

Address:

☐ Individuals

☐ Small Business Concern

☐ Nonprofit Organization

Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities (37 CFR 1.27).

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING: Tsunehisa TANAKA

TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER: _____

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING: c/o LIHIT LAB., INC. of 1-22, Noninbashi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu, JAPAN

SIGNATURE: Tsunehisa Tanaka DATE: December 8, 2004